

## **Summary of 2015 Third Quarter Fatal Accidents at Metal/Nonmetal Mines and Preventative Recommendations**

During the third quarter of 2015, five miners were killed in accidents in the metal and nonmetal mining industry.

Two miners died in **Machinery** accidents. Two miners were killed in **Falling Material** accidents. Another miner was killed in an accident classified as **Other**. When completed, a detailed investigation report of each fatality will be posted on the MSHA website at:

<http://www.msha.gov/fatals/fab.htm>.

Here is a brief summary of these accidents:

### **Two miners were killed in Machinery accidents.**

A 26-year old miner with 4 years of experience was killed at an underground gold mine. The drill was traveling in the reverse direction of travel up a 10% slope and was carrying a 13½ ft. long drill steel in a rack that had been installed on the machine. The forward end of the drill steel struck a rib causing it to be pushed back toward the operator. The drill steel struck and killed the operator, and caused him to fall to the ground. No witnesses were present at the time of the accident.

A 50-year old Superintendent with 26 years of experience was killed at a sand and gravel dredge operation. Two miners were attempting to dislodge the clam shell bucket from the bottom of the pond when the dredge capsized. One miner was injured but was able to swim to shore and summon assistance. The victim was recovered eight days later.

### **Two miners were killed in a Falling Material accident.**

A 18-year old truck driver (seasonal associate) with 9 weeks experience was killed at a granite mine. The victim backed his truck under a conveyor belt to be loaded. After exiting the truck, the victim entered a door leading underneath the "sand fines silo." Soon after entering the silo, the structure collapsed burying the victim beneath the falling material.

A 64-year old miner with 44 weeks experience was killed at a sand and gravel mine. The victim was operating a front-end loader, loading trucks from a stockpile, when he exited the loader. While outside the loader, the approximate 35-foot high stockpile slope failed and engulfed the victim between the stockpile and the loader.

### **One miner died in an accident classified as Other.**

A 25-year old contractor with 6 months of experience was killed at a Kaolin processing plant. The victim was working alone and entered a railcar to wash out residual product. The victim was later found unresponsive inside the railcar.